

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, before paragraph 1, please add the following:

Field of the Invention

The present invention concerns detection of target molecules using methods of enzymatically catalyzed amplification of target associated detectable structures.

On page 1, before paragraph 2, please add the following:

Background of the Invention

Several nucleic acid amplification techniques are already known, e.g. the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). However many of these techniques (including PCR) suffer from the disadvantage that they specifically amplify a target sequence (amplicon) present within the sample of interest. This amplicon, once generated, can easily contaminate a laboratory working area in which strict controls are not maintained. Such contamination can render subsequent amplification reactions suspect, and can require a cessation of testing and the initiation of expensive decontamination procedures.

On page 2, before the first full paragraph , please add the following:

Summary of the Invention

The current invention outlines a method for the amplification of a nucleic acid based signal. It involves the generation of a repeating structure containing multiple copies of a detectable sequence, and is produced through the concerted action of a polymerase (which extends the repeating structure) and a separating agent (which uncovers hybridisation sites to allow assembly of sequence repeats). The method of the invention offers the following advantages over methods existing in the art:

On page 3, paragraph 2, please add the following:

Detailed Description of the Invention

According to a first embodiment of the present invention there is provided a method for detecting a target molecule, comprising the steps of:

On page 24, paragraph 2, please add the following:

Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 shows forms of Locator probes hybridised to target nucleic acid sequences;